

April 19, 2021

Reference WC Docket No. 21-93

Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am submitting comments in response to the FCC's Public Notice, DA 21-317 on behalf of the Pottsboro (TX) Area Library. We are a small, rural library in north Texas with a service population of 3,500. The Pottsboro Area Library supports funds being used to deploy additional network facilities. After more than a year of working on this issue with a local ISP, it is obvious we have to have additional towers to reach unserved areas.

The impact of Covid-19 shined a spotlight on the harmful effects created by the lack of Internet infrastructure in our rural community. Working with a local ISP, the Pottsboro Area Library implemented a variety of solutions to address the overwhelming need. The work our innovative library performs with local, regional, and national stakeholders is Pottsboro's best chance to address the problem in a long-term way. I have a concern that funding will be spent on hot-spots and other short-term band-aids. Hot-spots do not work in much of our area because there are not enough towers.

In March 2020, our library strengthened our parking lot signal as a first response to the pandemic. We coordinated with area businesses and churches to remove the password from their Wifi and promoting to the public. The next step was to contact Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) who deployed a mobile Wifi trailer in a hotel parking lot and installed public Wifi at a local tackle shop/convenience store. With funding through Gigabit Libraries Network, our ISP installed 4 neighborhood access stations close to the residential areas where low-income students without Internet access live. The ISP (TekWav) is using his EBS spectrum to provide this service. This is what the spectrum is intended to do. Students' addresses were mapped by our school district and provided to us. If you will allow us to use funding in a way that fits our community's unique circumstances, we can make a difference. Please be aware that our library has an extremely small staff but huge passion for this work. Onerous applications and documentation create situations where we cannot participate due to the amount of time involved.

An overview of our EBS project can be found on the Community SecondNets page at GigLibraries.Net

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Connery". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" and last name "Connery" clearly legible.

Dianne Connery  
Special Projects Librarian